

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 606

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 2105

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XM

SUBJECT: POST-QUITO ROUND ROBIN LETTER-RAMPHAL'S REACTION

REF: (A) STATE 257999; (B) STATE 260376; (C) GEORGETOWN 2086

1. I DELIVERED SECRETARY KISSINGER'S LETTER TO FONMIN RAMPHAL 0900 NOV 27. HE READ IT WITH OBVIOUS INTEREST AND IMMEDIATELY SAID, "WELL, HE'S LAID IT ON THE LINE AND I'LL HAVE TO PUT ON MY THINKING CAP TO GIVE HIM THE KIND OF RESPONSE HIS INVITATION DESERVES".

2. RAMPHAL SAID HE WOULD HOLD OFF REPLY UNTIL HIS RETURN FROM HAVANA VISIT (REFTEL C), BUT HE WANTED ME TO CONVEY TO SECRETARY KISSINGER AND TO DEPT WHAT HE HAD STIPULATED IN CABINET MEETING NOV 26; I.E. THAT HIS VISIT TO CUBA IS NOT TO BE TAKEN IN CONTEXT OF QUITO MF. HE EXPLAINED THIS AS MEANING THAT HE DID NOT INTEND TO RAISE WITH CUBANS ANY OF THE ISSUES DEALT WITH AT QUITO. HE FULLY EXPECTED, HOWEVER, THAT CUBANS WOULD DO SO AND THAT THEY WOULD ENDEAVOR TO INCORPORATE IN COMMUNIQUE (OR GET HIM TO INCLUDE IN PUBLIC STATEMENT) SOME REFERENCE TO OAS ALONG LINES OF WELL-KNOWN CUBAN ATTITUDE REGARDING THE ORGANIZATION. HE SAID THIS WOULD PUT HIM IN DIFFICULT POSITION, BUT HE IMPLIED THAT HE WOULD TRY TO AVOID BECOMING INVOLVED IN THE DEBATE OVER SANCTIONS RESOLUTION AND FUTURE OF OAS.

3. RAMPHAL SAID THAT, APART FROM BILATERAL MATTERS, HE INTENDED
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TO FOCUS DISCUSSION WITH CUBANS ON: A) GOG PROPOSAL FOR

CARIBBEAN BASIN CONFERENCE, B) JANUARY MEETING OF NON-ALIGNED BUREAU IN HAVANA, AND C) MARCH MFM IN BUENOS AIRES.

4. REGARDING LAST ITEM, RAMPHAL EXPRESSED SERIOUS DOUBT THAT MEETING COULD BE HELD IN BUENOS AIRES FOR SECURITY REASONS. HE EXPECTS GOA WILL PULL OUT ALL STOPS TO PREVENT ANY MOVE TO TRANSFER SITE OF MEETING, BUT HE BELIEVES SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF LA GOVTS WILL COME FORWARD TO SUGGEST HOLDING MEETING ELSEWHERE.

5. REGARDING QUITO MFM, RAMPHAL SAID GOG OBSERVERS HAVE NOW CONFIRMED INDICATIONS FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT USG WAS GENUINELY NEUTRAL ON SANCTIONS ISSUE. HE SAID HE HAD NO INDICATION OF WHAT MAY HAVE TRANSPIRED BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND INDIVIDUAL CAPITALS IN ADVANCE OF MEETING, BUT HE READILY AGREED WITH MY OBSERVATION TOAT IN THIS INSTANCE THE LA6S HAD DEMONSTRATED LACK OF EXPERIENCE IN MANAGING OAS AFFAIRS IN ABSENCE OF USG IN LEADING ROLE. RAMPHAL THOUGHT IT SIGNIFICANT THAT RESULT OF QUITO MEETING CORRESPONDED CLOSELY TO PREDICTION GIVEN HIM BY CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO JAMAICA IN LATE OCTOBER.

6. FINALLY, RAMPHAL OBSERVED THAT CO-SPONSORS OF QUITO MEETING WERE NOW IN STATE OF CONFUSION AND MUTUAL RECRIMINATIONS. THERE IS TENDENCY, HE SAID, TO REGARD VENEZUELANS AS "FOOLS" AND COSTA RICANS AS "KNAVES" OF THE DRAMA. UNFORTUNATELY FOR GUYANA, HE ADDED, IN THE CHARGES AND COUNTER-CHARGES BETWEEN COPEI AND AD IN VENEZUELA, THE ISSUE OF PORT OF SPAIN PROTOCOL CONCERNING VENEZUELA-GUYANA BORDER DISPUTE HAS BEEN REV VED, WITH COPEC RPT COPEI CHALLENGING AD TO BRING IT UP FOR LEGISLATIVE RATIFICATION.

RAMPHAL COMMENTED THAT THIS WORRIES HIM BECAUSE IT WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY DELAY, IF NOT REVERSE, PROCESS OF NORMALIZATION IN BILATERAL RELATIONS.
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